



Urban District Council of Chesham

Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year 1972



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1972

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chairman of the Council: Councillor Mrs. K.L. Harries

HEALTH, PLANNING AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

Chairman
Councillor W.H. Phelps

Councillor Mrs. K.L. Harries	Councillor A.H.J. Baines, M.A., C.C.
Councillor C.F.J. Downs	Councillor K.J. Reynolds
Councillor A.C. Smith	Councillor R. Groves
Councillor P.A. Ward	Councillor D.W. Langdon
	Councillor B. Lipscombe

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

B.H. Burne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, and Beaconsfield Urban District Council. Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer, and Departmental Medical Officer.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Winifred J. Risk, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., F.I.H.M.

Other Appointments: Housing Manager to Chesham Urban District Council

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

A.P. Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Other Appointment: Deputy Housing Manager to Chesham Urban District Council

Additional Public Health Inspector

A.E. Scott, B.Sc.,Dip.P.H.I.E.B.,M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer

Clerk

Mrs. G.W. Hawley

Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Mrs. L.W. Gillard

Copy Typist & Records Clerk

Mrs. C.P. King (Resigned 7.8.72)

Mrs. S. Wooton (Appointed 17.7.72)

Junior Clerk

Miss J. Wilyman

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chesham 2622

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham, Bucks.

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the
Chesham Urban District Council

Dear Members,

With the kind of certainty which seems to flow from modern Parliamentary programmes, the National Health Service Reorganisation Bill will become an effective statute on 1st April 1974.

As part of the unification process the office of Medical Officer of Health will cease and local district authorities will have made available to them the advice of a seconded Community Physician versed in environmental health expertise. As the new District Councils will become effective from the same day in April 1974, the occasion will not be quite so redolent of history as it might. There still being some time left, perhaps some of the health statistics from earlier years might be of interest and as next year's Annual Report will be the last to be presented to the Council for a complete year, it is hoped to do some research into the archives.

The simultaneous reorganisation of Local Government and the National Health Service is without doubt one of the few major upheavals undertaken outside war-time. Like a declaration of war there has to be general assent to a change of this magnitude and most health staff, who are doubly affected, will see the occasion as offering an opportunity and a challenge rather than a cause for discouragement or disappointment.

What of recent environmental trends?

We are seeing an Industrial process in the countryside, a second industrial revolution with mechanization and sophistication of agriculture and animal husbandry so that the drift from the countryside has been accentuated rather than lessened. This is less obvious in the face of the reverse trend of escape from the city to the green belt.

We allude to the noisesome practice of "straw burning" during later summer months. The N.F.U. is said to be taking action in this

matter but it remains to be seen if they can discipline their more indifferent and pyromanic members. Quite apart from the aesthetic and broader environmental issues, the smoke haze produced cuts down the opportunity of individuals to form vitamin D from exposure to sunlight at a time when the strength of the ultra-violet rays is waning.

We do not subscribe to the view sometimes taken that health is difficult to define as say beauty. There is now generally agreement as to what are the optimum requirements for health and these are not subjective or ephemeral. We therefore view with reassurance and some satisfaction that District Health Departments are to continue after 1974. However, the Arabs have a saying "bokra fel mish-mish" - tomorrow we shall have apricots. We need to see the fruits of present reorganisational labours before we can judge them.

"Hygiene" has been sold to the man-in-the-shop. Most foods are now wrapped to the extent where one needs a waste paper basket handy at the breakfast table to eat one's cereal, plus if possible a pair of scissors with the cutlery. Indeed, breakfast cereal manufacturers have much to answer for a whole generation of children now tending to obesity. Cutting out breakfast is one of the easiest ways to slim, but advertisers' success has changed the pronunciation of the word 'vitamin' to 'vittermin' within the last two decades and made breakfast an essential meal.

Had the smoking and health campaign gone as well as it ought to have done by now we should not be showing the usual morbidity and mortality trends from lung cancer and other respiratory disease. Clearly better health has to be something you can buy, is well wrapped and contains semi-mystical constituents derived from recent scientific discoveries. The 'safe cigarette' will probably have a place in the weaning part of this generation at least from the nicotine habit, not because of its scientific value but because this is the only economic way to release nearly half the population from the mental acrobatics they employ. Giving up would be easier to most smokers if they could find a substitute. In our spendthrift society if they do not buy "satisfaction" they will no doubt be less appreciative.

It is a matter of concern that the broader expenditure on preventive health, often requiring the individual's active participation and initiative, will shortly become swallowed up in one great impersonal health budget competing with very expensive sophisticated treatment. What room will there be for local experiment and innovation? Take the local V.D. Telephone Answering Service. Such matters might in future be dubbed "not within the policy", "not your responsibility", "you had no authority to speak to the press or public". Any Regional, Area and District organisation is bound to be hierarchical. Yet, it is part of the duty of all doctors to be free to teach and promote health education. It is a matter of concern that in future health education

will not be the responsibility of the Local Education Authorities, that health advice will not be immediately available to social workers in Social Services Departments, that neither they nor District Councils may have any obligation to consult on health matters. Indeed, many problems may not be thought of as health problems at all, yet turn out to be some form of illness. Infectious Disease can, in its many disguises, masquerade as a multiplicity of social or emotional problems as any psychiatrist can say. For this reason alone it is vital that a medical presence is maintained within Environmental Health Departments and for the services for children. Nor can be viewed, without disquiet, the use of non-medical advisers to such departments for their casework and placements.

B.H. BURNE
Medical Officer of Health

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S E C T I O N I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1961	16,297
Population, Census 1971	20,447
Population (estimated mid-year 1972)	20,730
Area (acres of District)	3,489
Number of inhabited dwellings (per Valuation List)	7,057
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.72)	£1,045,482
Product of Penny Rate 1972/73(probable)	£10,060

Comparative Statistics 1934 - 1972

	Y E A R		
	1934	1971	1972
Population	10,240	20,480	20,730
Rateable Value	£56,463	£1,015,265	£1,045,482
Product of Penny Rate	£212	£9,752	£10,060
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,084	7,014	7,057

2. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	195	186	381
Illegitimate	9	13	22
All	204	199	403

<u>Live Birth Rates, etc.</u>	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live births per 1,000 home population (Crude rate)	19.4	14.8
Area comparability factor	.91	1.00
* Local adjusted rate	17.7	14.8
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.19	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	5	9

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	3	5

Total Live and Stillbirths

Legitimate	197	189	386
Illegitimate	9	13	22
Total	206	202	408

<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	12	12

<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	-	4	4
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	-	5	5
Under 4 weeks of age:			
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	-	3	3
Under 1 week of age:			
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	-	3	3

<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	12	17
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	10	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	45	21
Neonatal mortality rate: deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	7	12

	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Early neonatal mortality rate: deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	7	10
Perinatal mortality rate: stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	20	22

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths	NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still births	NIL

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All ages	97	92	189
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude rate)			9.1
Death Rate per 1,000 population England & Wales			12.1
* Local adjusted rate per 1,000 population (Area comparability factor 1.20)			11.0
Ratio of Local adjusted Death Rate to National Death Rate			.91

- * The locally adjusted birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The locally adjusted rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

It will be seen from the following table that the principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation (84) which caused approximately 44% of the deaths. Deaths from malignant conditions (48) accounted for approximately 25% of the total and those from pneumonia and bronchitis (27) for approximately 14%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	2	—	2
2. Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	—	2
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	3
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	3	4
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	—	1
6. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	5	15
7. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	4	4
8. Leukaemia	2	1	3
9. Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	8	14
10. Benign & Unspecified Neoplasms	1	—	1
11. Diabetes Mellitus	—	2	2
12. Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	—	1	1
13. Anaemias	1	—	1
14. Other Diseases of Nervous System	—	3	3
15. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	—	1	1
16. Hypertensive Disease	—	4	4
17. Ischaemic Heart Disease	29	18	47
18. Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	2	7
19. Cerebrovascular Disease	12	10	22
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	3
21. Pneumonia	10	9	19
22. Bronchitis and Emphysema	6	2	8
23. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	1	1
24. Appendicitis	—	1	1
25. Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	3	5
26. Other Diseases of Genito - Urinary System	—	1	1
27. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	—	2	2
28. Congenital Anomalies	—	2	2
29. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	—	1	1
30. Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	—	1	1
31. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	2
32. All Other Accidents	—	3	3
33. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	1	3
Total All Causes	97	92	189

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM
BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE YEAR 1972

District	* Population Census 1971	Registrar General Estimated Population Mid-1972	BIRTHS		DEATHS	
			Number	rate per 1,000 Population	Number	rate per 1,000 Population
<u>URBAN</u>						
Aylesbury	40,569	40,860	635	15.5	334	8.2
Beaconsfield	11,875	11,800	113	9.6	82	6.9
Bletchley	30,627	31,990	701	21.9	203	6.3
Buckingham	5,076	5,200	78	15.0	47	9.0
Chesham	20,447	20,730	403	19.4	189	9.1
Eton	3,956	4,880	37	7.6	34	7.0
High Wycombe	59,340	60,510	1,045	17.3	545	9.0
Marlow	11,749	11,720	216	18.4	99	8.4
Newport Pagnell	6,334	6,660	133	20.0	108	16.2
Slough	87,075	88,420	1,538	17.4	742	8.4
Wolverton	13,821	13,810	223	16.1	177	12.8
TOTAL URBAN	290,869	296,580	5,122	17.3	2,560	8.6
<u>RURAL</u>						
Amersham	68,496	69,300	890	12.8	650	9.4
Aylesbury	38,552	38,450	583	15.2	398	10.4
Buckingham	9,557	10,190	152	14.9	103	10.1
Eton	72,051	73,000	838	11.5	694	9.5
Newport Pagnell	15,841	16,430	258	15.7	216	13.1
Wing	10,754	10,920	207	19.0	103	9.4
Winslow	10,127	10,370	167	16.1	141	13.6
Wycombe	71,312	73,050	1,173	16.1	546	7.5
TOTAL RURAL	296,690	301,710	4,268	14.1	2,851	9.4
TOTAL COUNTY	587,559	598,290	9,390	15.7	5,411	9.0
ENGLAND & WALES		49,028,900	725,405	14.8	591,907	12.1

* Adjusted totals - Figures in 1971 Report were provisional

S E C T I O N I I

HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Chesham Urban District is situated within the area of the High Wycombe & District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	- Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common
General	- Chesham Cottage Hospital - Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury - Amersham General Hospital - Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury - Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury - Wycombe General Hospital - Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital
Infectious Diseases	- Isolation Hospital, Stoke Mandeville
Mental Illness	- St. John's Hospital, Stone
Maternity Cases	- The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St. Giles - Amersham General Hospital

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford, Luton and Watford, and also by the Pathological Laboratory at Amersham General Hospital.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst for Southwark Borough Council.

The Public Analyst for Buckinghamshire is Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., Analytical Laboratory, Stuart House, 1 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4. (Telephone No. Fleet Street 9026)

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is provided by the County Council, the Chesham Urban District being covered by the sub-station at Chiltern Road, Amersham (telephone no. Amersham 7154) from 7.00 a.m. - 11.00 p.m. The main station at High Wycombe (telephone no. High Wycombe 21871) provides a 24-hour cover to the whole of the area.

Since the Autumn of 1968, the Casualty Department at the Amersham General Hospital (telephone No. Amersham 4411) has opened only during the day. Casualties occurring during the evening, at night or on Sunday, are treated at Wycombe General Hospital where there is a 24-hour service.

4. MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE

The District is covered by a number of district nurses and midwives controlled by supervisory staff of the County Health Department. A scheme of attachment with all medical practitioners in the Town is in operation and the close liaison achieved is appreciated by both general practitioners and the nursing staff. The service is provided by the under-mentioned nurses:

<u>Attached to</u>	<u>Name and Address of Nurse</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Drs. Wise, Middle, Fabre and Morris	Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. 367 Chartridge Lane, Chesham.	Chesham 2762
	Mrs. S. Ginger, S.R.N., S.C.M. 199, Chartridge Lane, Chesham.	Chesham 5126
Drs. Howe and Hutt	Miss E. Johnson, S.R.N., S.C.M. 7 First Avenue, Amersham.	Amersham 6374
	Vacancy for D.N.S.	
Drs. Heywood, McMullan, Harley and King	Mrs. L. Alexander, S.R.N. 25 Penn Avenue, Chesham.	Chesham 2842
	(Male Nurse)	
	Mr. J. Jackson, S.R.N., Q.N. 537 Waterside, Chesham	Chesham 71309
	Mrs. J. Smith, S.R.N. "High Farnham" Buckland Common	Cholesbury 471
	Mrs. B. Hutchinson, S.R.N., S.C.M. 4, Albion Road, Chalfont St. Giles	Chalfont St. Giles 2221

5. CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

Child Health Clinics at which mothers can obtain help and advice in the care of babies and young children and arrange for immunisation are provided as follows:

	<u>Session</u>	<u>M.O. Attends</u>
Chesham School Clinic and Health Centre, Germain Street. (Tel.Nos:Chesham 5603 or 3991)	2.00 p.m. each Wednesday and Friday	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday each month and 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month.
Chesham Community Hall, Windsor Road, Pond Park	2nd and 4th Monday at 2.00 p.m. each month	Each session
* Chartridge Village Hall	1st and 3rd Thursday each month	Each session

* Although situated in Amersham Rural District, a number of Chesham residents form the clientele.

6. HEALTH VISITING

A health visiting service is provided by the County Council for health education of the public and personal guidance to families seeking advice.

Health visitors for the Chesham District may be contacted either at the School Clinic, Germain Street, Chesham (telephone No. 3991) or at Ivy House, Red Lion Street, Chesham (telephone No. 71952). They are normally available at these centres Monday to Friday, 9.00 - 10.00 a.m. and 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.

In recent years an attachment scheme has been developed whereby health visitors operating within geographical areas work in liaison with medical practices. Under this arrangement health visitors are working in attachment with ten general medical practitioners in the three group practices in Chesham. In addition, health visitors maintain liaison with hospital staffs and other medical and social workers.

7. HOME HELP SERVICES

This scheme provides for help to be given in the homes of people suffering from chronic or acute illness including old age and pregnancy. The scheme is administered by the Local Organiser operating from 32/38 Church Street, Chesham. (telephone No. 72424). This is a responsibility of the Social Services Department of the Bucks County Council.

8. CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 28

A Clinic has been established at Chesham Cottage Hospital and sessions are held on alternate Mondays between 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. Applications for appointments may be made through the County Health Visitors, General Practitioners or at the Public Health Department.

9. FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

The Family Planning Association have reported on family planning work in the Chesham area. During 1972 the Chesham Clinic located at the Red Lion Street Surgery, maintained its popularity. The Association enjoy close liaison with general practitioners in the area and are fortunate to be afforded the use of clinical facilities.

Chesham Council has continued in co-operation with Amersham Rural District Council to sponsor a Family Planning Information Service at the Amersham General Hospital. The service has been extended to the Stone Maternity Hospital. In this way an average of 84% of patients are seen.

A full report on the activities of the local branch of the Family Planning Association is published as an appendix to my Report to the Amersham Rural District Council.

10. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Occupational Therapy Centre serving the Chesham area, which was originally held in hired premises at Great Missenden, was transferred to more modern premises at 125, High Street, Chesham, in September 1970. These were adapted to incorporate the special facilities required by disabled persons, and include two therapy rooms, a small assessment/kitchen unit, and a carpentry workshop.

The Centre is open full time, and serves Chesham and the surrounding district. It provides 20 places, and the number of patients on the register at the end of 1972 was 50. The number of attendances made by patients during the year was 2552.

The Craft Instructress based at the Centre serves 7 County Welfare Homes in the area and 1035 domiciliary calls were made by the Occupational Therapists during the year.

11. PROPOSED HEALTH CENTRE FOR CHESHAM
National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 21

Unfortunately in view of the lack of unanimity among the General Practitioners working in the Town, negotiations for the establishment of a Health Centre in Chesham were suspended in 1970. Any future plans would be the responsibility of the new Area Health Authority to be set-up in April, 1974.

12. MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot situated at the rear of 122 High Street, Chesham, and organised by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, has again rendered valuable service not only in this area but throughout the County.

Close liaison is maintained with general practitioners, Hospitals Medical Social Workers, Health Visitors, District Nurses and M-d wives.

It is a pleasure to give below the interesting and informative report that has been received from Mrs. Janet Mash, the officer in charge of the Depot.

"The Depot has continued to help the sick and infirm people of Chesham and District with various types of medical aids and all requests for standard equipment have been met.

Invalids helped = 983

Maternity cases = 70

Total number of articles lent = 2,367

We are very grateful to the many organisations in the district who have supported the Depot, and with a generous legacy and donations from grateful patients we have been able to purchase a number of new chairs and commodes, and three items of modern equipment: Ejector Seats, Cubex pads and a Cyclotile.

Ejector seats fit any chair and are designed with varying spring resistance which give a patient a thrust upwards when attempting to get up from a chair. A disabled or infirm patient unable to get up from a chair without someone to assist, often finds that with the aid of an Ejector Seat it is possible to get up from the sitting to the standing position quite independently.

Cubex Pads are for the prevention and cure of pressure sores. They are a new principle of anti-decubitus cushion and are filled with shifting polystyrene beads which mould to the patient's body and so distribute the pressure over the largest possible surface area. They were highly recommended to us by a leading hospital and in order to keep abreast of the times we decided to purchase a small number of pads to try them out for ourselves. The District Nurses are showing a great interest in the pads, and now that we are beginning to lend them out we look forward to having the nurses' opinion of them.

We purchased the Cyclette or Stationary Bicycle at the suggestion of the Superintendent Physiotherapist at Chesham Cottage Hospital. Now that patients are discharged from hospital so much earlier than they used to be, they are often faced with prolonged courses of exercise therapy in an Out Patients Physiotherapy Department. This can mean long and sometimes difficult journeys to the hospital and back. This is a new departure for the Depot in so much that it is a piece of equipment to rehabilitate patients after surgery in their own homes, and will only be lent on medical request.

Some of the major expenses during the year were:-

24 Wheel Chairs	=	£1,038
10 Commode Chairs	=	£ 81
3 Ripple beds & Engines	=	£ 90
5 Major Buggy Chairs	=	£ 100
1 Bronchitis Kettle	=	£ 35.50
6 Ejector Seats	=	£ 60
1 Cyclette	=	£ 55

A Sale of Work was held in November and raised over £200, very many thanks to all the helpers who worked hard during the year to make the effort so successful. We were pleased to welcome Miss Wheeler back to Chesham to open the Sale of Work.

Two parties of girls from a local school visited the Depot, and a number of student nurses who were working in this area with District Nurses.

We are very grateful to the County Council Health Department who supply us with the premises and electricity, and we hope that the Council will consider the needs of a Medical Comforts Depot in any future development of the town.

St. John's Ambulance Brigade members and town helpers have once again given loyal and constant help to the Depot. With the hundreds of items lent in the year, all have to be cleaned and

sterilised, checked and recorded; I am indeed very grateful to the helpers for their regular and dedicated service.

I look forward to 1973 and feel sure that the Depot will play an active part in helping all those in need of Medical Aids."

13. PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY

(a) Visit of Under-Graduate Dental Students

A party of approximately 50 fourth year dental students and their tutors visited Chesham on the 14th and 15th of June from the Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square. This is the fifth year we have arranged this, and for the third year it extended over two days. Students spent the night at Woodrow High House, Amersham, and a very full programme of talks, discussions and visits took place. I am most grateful to all the participants who contributed to the success of the two day course and only wished we were able to do the same for medical students. At present this work is limited to the occasional visits of undergraduate and post-graduate students to clinical sessions at the Germain Street Clinic. The students are from the Royal Free Hospital.

(b) National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 28
(Prevention of Disease)
Fluoridation of Water Supplies

During the year no further action was taken by the Council to secure the fluoridation of the water supplied to the town.

The fluoride content of the water supplied by the Council's undertaking is 0.04 parts/million according to the last analysis carried out in March, 1969.

S E C T I O N I I I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

1. REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF
CARE AND ATTENTION - National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a magistrate or a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

In general it is felt preferable for persons of good mental state to be persuaded to accept more suitable care voluntarily. Most patients and relatives will accept the combined advice of both general practitioner and medical officer of health and can see the advantages of informal admissions and discharges.

Administration of this Section of the Act remained the statutory duty of the District Council after the establishment of the Social Services Department.

No formal action under these provisions was necessary during the year.

2. BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD
National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

No burials were arranged under this Section during the year.

3. CHESHAM AND DISTRICT OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE
(AGE CONCERN)

The Temperance Hall, leased from the Chesham Council and opened in January, 1962, has continued to be the centre of activity by this Committee. The Hall is open daily between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. for the use of the elderly people of the Town and a wide range of amenities and services are provided. Full details of these services are given in a booklet published by the Committee and distributed to interested persons throughout the town.

Mrs. L.M. Esseen, the Secretary of the Committee, has forwarded the following report on activities during 1972.

"The year has been one of steady progress. The cost of running the services in Temperance Hall has increased but the number of old people making demands on the services is fairly constant.

The total number of meals cooked in the Hall shows a slight increase on last year - now about 7200 - which is almost to capacity in view of the small kitchen. Chiropody treatments have increased in cost and number but the Committee feel that this money is well spent because it keeps very many old people mobile and the hairdressing service really helps to boost morale.

We are greatly indebted to our voluntary helpers who give up their time so regularly year in year out. Without them, the whole organisation would collapse. Of course, there is a demand for more volunteers.

We now have a centre organiser (Miss M.C. Angel) who is 'learning the ropes' very well and is beginning to lift the load of constant supervision.

Of future plans the Committee hope to start a much needed shop for old people in 1974, to try to cut the cost of eating. Plans are in hand for this but a suitable room is not yet available and Temperance Hall is used to capacity.

During the year, OPWC took under its wing the Community Care project which, whilst in no sense a committee, has brought together a band of people who are prepared to look after the less fortunate of our community. A tall order!"

4. MEALS SERVICE

In addition to the meals-on-wheels service provided by the Old People's Welfare Committee to elderly persons in their houses and to the meals provided by the Committee at Temperance Hall, a valuable contribution to this important welfare service is provided by the Wallington Road Luncheon Club, a voluntary organisation using the facilities at the Council's Community Centre. Meals are provided for elderly persons living in the Deansway and Elm Tree Hill area on two days each week.

During 1972, the Old People's Welfare Committee provided about 7,200 meals, either at recipients' homes or at the Centre. The Wallington Road Luncheon Club provided 3,798 meals.

Thanks are due to the many voluntary workers who make it possible to maintain these services.

5. FAMILIES WITH PROBLEMS

The arrangement for these has been modified by the setting up of Social Service Departments. As ad hoc Chairman of the Conference of Professional Workers in this field, I wish to thank the County Health Visitors and all Social Workers both of voluntary agencies and of statutory services for their helpful co-operation.

I should also particularly like to thank the Housing Manager's and Treasurer's Departments for their forbearance towards our sometimes difficult clients, thus preventing the break-up of families or avoiding their homelessness. A number of informal conferences have been held in regard to children and their families known to the Child Health Services locally.

S E C T I O N I V

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table below gives the cases of infectious disease notified during 1972 together with figures for the two previous years:

Disease	Cases Notified		
	1970	1971	1972
Measles	229	10	11
Sonne Dysentery	3	-	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	3	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Infective Hepatitis	-	3	2
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	4	1

Food Poisoning

Four cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

These, which were due to strains of Salmonella, were fully investigated and where necessary appropriate control measures were taken under the Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations 1968.

2. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

(a) Smallpox Vaccination

Routine vaccination of children against smallpox has been suspended following an advisory circular from the Department of Health. Vaccination is still available, however, on request, especially for those intending to make overseas visits.

(b) Ministry of Health Circular 15/67 Distribution of Smallpox Vaccine

Under the arrangements described in the circular, a supply of smallpox vaccine is held in the Public Health Department and is available to local general practitioners.

During 1972, 256 doses were issued.

(c) Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus Immunisation

The schedule for the use of triple antigens - containing pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus prophylactic - continues to follow the advice of the Standing Advisory Committee to the Ministry on the subject. The current arrangement is that parents are encouraged to have their children immunised with triple antigens at about four months and again at about six months; a third dose is given at about one year of age.

(d) Measles

Measles vaccine has continued to be made generally available during the year. This is given early in the second year. The figures for notifications show a considerable drop due to the vaccination programme.

(d) Poliomyelitis

Oral vaccine is used, given in conjunction with triple vaccine usually. Booster doses are available before starting school or on going abroad.

(f) Rubella (German Measles)

Following a circular received in 1970 from the Department of Health licensing vaccine for use against Rubella, an immediate programme of vaccination for 13 year old girls was carried out at the beginning of 1971. The age of vaccination was later reduced to 12 year olds, being done on the Autumn Term visits of School Doctors.

Vaccination and Immunisation Records

The following table gives the numbers of local children who were protected against the above diseases during 1972.

Type of Vaccine	Primary Courses Completed	Booster Doses Completed
	All children under 16 years	
Diphtheria	--	--
Pertussis	--	--
Diphtheria/Tetanus	9	325
Tetanus	6	59
Triple (D.T.P.)	410	49
Sabin (Polio)	420	107
Measles	391	--
Rubella	No separate figures available	

Most vaccinations are now done following appointments arranged by the County Health Authority's computer, whether or not the general practitioner or medical officer attending the child health clinic gives the vaccination.

(g) Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination for children at the age of about 13 years is provided by the School Health Service. In the Amersham and Chesham Division it is pleasing to note that once again there was an excellent response from parents.

The B.C.G. vaccination is preceded by a tuberculin test which indicates whether the individual has in the past been infected with Tuberculosis. Most of these infections are very mild and cause no definite symptoms. The number reacting to this test is a measure of the past exposure of these children to Tuberculosis. 4.77% of children tested in 1972 were tuberculin positive. The comparable figure in 1962 was 4.4%. Special arrangements can be made for immigrant children to be included in this scheme at an earlier age.

Those children who react strongly to this test are referred to the County Chest Physician for further investigation, and usually a chest X-ray.

(h) Influenza Vaccine

As in previous years, routine vaccination against Influenza was offered to members of the Council's staff and 40 persons volunteered.

3. MOBILE CHEST X-RAY SERVICE

A letter from the Medical Director of the Mass Radiography Service of the Oxford Regional Board stated that as from 1st January, 1971, Chesham and Amersham would both be omitted from the itinerary of the mobile unit. This was in line with a recommendation of a specialist committee of the Department of Health. I wrote to the Medical Director protesting about the suspension of this service. However, the X-ray services at both Amersham and Chesham hospitals seem to be able to cope with the increased number of referrals. This arrangement appears to extinguish the general public's right to direct access to routine X-ray checks unless specially arranged.

In view of the relatively high incidence of tuberculosis in immigrant populations in the High Wycombe area, the Medical Director has accepted that a special survey will be needed sometime in the near future.

S E C T I O N V

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

1. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number and nature of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year is given below:

<u>Housing Acts</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Houses inspected under Housing Acts (except multi-occupied) 	11
Houses revisited under Housing Acts (except multi-occupied) 	30
Multi-occupied houses	55
Visits in connection with applications for Qualification Certificates ...	15
Visits under Rent Acts 	-
Visits in connection with improvement grant applications 	225
Compulsory improvement of houses ...	-
Visits to housing applicants... ...	8
Rapid Housing Survey (re-visits) ...	21
 <u>Public Health Acts</u>	
Primary visits to houses re defects	33
Revisits to houses re defects ...	26
Nuisances from animals and refuse, etc.	98
Caravan Sites 	21
Water Supplies 	245
Swimming Pool and Paddling Pool ...	44
Sewers, Drains and Cesspools... ...	47
Drain Tests 	5
Sanitary Accommodation 	18
 <u>Factories</u>	
Power Factories	23
Non-Power Factories 	-
Other Premises (e.g. Building Sites)	2
Outworkers Premises 	1
 <u>Food, and Food Premises</u>	
Butchers 	40
Grocers 	39
Fishmongers 	8
Restaurants, Cafes and Hotels ...	35
Works and School Canteens 	24

	No. of Visits
<u>Food, and Food Premises (continued)</u>	
Bakehouses and Confectioners ...	10
Icecream Premises	-
Food Manufacturing Premises	38
Licensed Premises	16
Dairies	21
Visits to inspect foodstuffs or take samples	69
Food Vehicles and stalls inspected...	12
Poultry Processors	1
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises</u>	
General Inspections	53
Other Visits	64
Investigation of Accidents	-
<u>Rodent and Insect Pest Control</u> (Excludes visits by the Rodent Officer)	
Rodent Control	45
Insect Pests	6
Disinfestation for Insect Pests ...	9
<u>Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning</u>	
Infectious Disease enquiries ...	46
Disinfections carried out	1
Food Poisoning enquiries	20
<u>Noise Abatement</u>	
Visits to premises	21
Observations only	7
<u>Clean Air</u>	
Visits to Plant or Premises	19
Observations only	12
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Pet Shops	-
Schools	2
Hairdressers	1
Interviews	1007
Other miscellaneous visits	223
No access - no one at home	101
<u>Complaints</u>	
Number of complaints made to the Public Health Department (excluding complaints of rats, mice and insects which are dealt with elsewhere in the Report)	126

2. INSECT PESTS

Members of the public have continued to seek the help of the Public Health Department in controlling insect pests. Appropriate advice is given on every occasion and where necessary treatments are carried out by staff of the Department.

The most urgent calls for assistance are received from occupiers of premises where wasp nests have been located. In 1972 55 nests were destroyed by the Council's Rodent Officer who carries out this work in addition to his normal duties. This number compares with 85 in 1971 and 106 in 1970. A variety of other insect pests were treated at 30 premises.

3. STRAY CATS

The Council's Rodent Officer has on a number of occasions during the year carried out the trapping of stray cats where these animals were causing a nuisance to residents. 9 cats were trapped and destroyed humanely by a local veterinary surgeon.

4. FERAL PIGEONS

During the year further efforts were made by the Council's Rodent Officer to reduce the numbers of feral pigeons frequenting the central area of the town and causing a nuisance from the fouling of buildings and foot-paths. This work met with only limited success, 25 birds being trapped during the course of operations which required 31 visits to set up bait and inspect traps.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION

As a result of the investigation of complaints and during the course of routine work a wide variety of sanitary defects and nuisances are met and dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Acts. In the majority of cases remedies are effected following written or verbal requests made by the Public Health Inspectors, without resort to statutory procedure.

During 1972, 38 written requests were made with respect to various defects. A table showing the type of matters dealt with follows.

Defect	No. of Occurrences
Defective Rainwater Drainage	8
Defective Sanitary Fittings	7
Structural Defects in Dwellings	7
Defective Roofs	4
Defective Drainage	4
Dampness in Dwellings	4
Defective Windows	4
Offensive Odours	3
Accumulations of Refuse	3
Other Miscellaneous Defects	3
TOTAL	47

6. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - STATUTORY NOTICES

If within a reasonable time the informal action described above fails to secure the remedy of sanitary defects or the abatement of nuisances, the matters concerned are reported to the Council's Health Committee, which authorises statutory notices to be served. The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year.

ACT & SECTION	DETAILS	NUMBER OF NOTICES			
		Out- standing on 1.1.72	Served	Complied with	Out- standing on 31.12.72
Public Health Act, 1936 Section 93	Dampness & other defects in dwellings	2	5	7	-
	Nuisance at un- occupied premises	1	-	1	-
	TOTAL	3	5	8	-

No Court Proceedings were necessary.

Work Carried Out by the Council

It was necessary to utilise the Council's powers on several occasions to clear stoppages in drainage systems common to groups of old houses. Under the Public Health Act, 1936, these systems are "public sewers" which the Council has a duty to "maintain, cleanse and empty", although the costs of any works of repair or renewal are recoverable. The work has been carried out by labour from the Surveyor's Department. The absence of proper inspection chambers to old drainage systems often makes the work of clearing stoppages a lengthy process.

7. NUISANCE FROM FOUL WATER FLOWING ONTO A HIGHWAY

For many years complaints have been made to the Council by local residents concerning the periodic fouling of part of Tylers Hill Road and of Botley Road adjacent to a dairy farm. During prolonged periods of rainfall surface water from the farmland, contaminated by farm waste, flowed from a ditch near the farm buildings across Botley Road and down Tylers Hill Road, creating an offensive hazard to pedestrians.

In 1971 and early 1972, conditions worsened and fresh approaches were made to the farmer with a view to his taking some remedial action. Numerous observations were kept by the Public Health Inspectors recording the days on which a nuisance occurred. Samples of the water draining to the highway were submitted for analysis and showed very high levels of contamination with faecal matter, comparable with crude sewage.

The help of the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Service was enlisted. Their Officer visited the farm and presented the farmer with details of a scheme for diverting the flow of water into holding tanks, an expedient that, not surprisingly, was viewed with some lack of confidence. Pressure was, however, put on the farmer to carry out this work or to adopt some other remedy and eventually he gave the Council an assurance that he would not use the farm for dairy purposes after the summer. He sold his dairy herd in September and no further reports of a nuisance have been received. Only relatively clean surface water now flows across the highway.

It is revealing to consider the legal aspects of this protracted exercise in public health control.. The opinion was firmly held that the nuisance could not be dealt with as a statutory nuisance under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, because the nuisance arose from the use of the premises rather than their condition. Strange as it may seem, it was also impossible to apply any provision of the Highways Act, 1959. There seemed ample evidence that a public nuisance was caused and if it had been necessary to resort to law the Council would have had no alternative but to take proceedings (at the relation of the Attorney General) for an injunction.

8. NOISE ABATEMENT

The Noise Abatement Act, 1960, empowers local authorities to take action in respect of nuisances caused by noise and vibration.

Complaints of noise from eleven separate sources were received during the year. Three complaints concerned noisy neighbours, two related to the use of pneumatic road drills, and the remaining six complaints were concerned with noise from commercial or industrial activities in close proximity to residential property.

The complaints were investigated by the Public Health Inspectors and all but three were considered to be justified. Informal discussions with the persons responsible secured the abatement of the noise nuisances in three cases; in four cases the noise was the result of temporary operations only and in the circumstances no practicable measures could be adopted to abate the nuisances. The remaining case occurred late in the year and action to resolve the matter is taking place in 1973.

9. CLEAN AIR

The Clean Air Acts, 1956 and 1968 make provision for abating the pollution of the air.

A total of ten incidents involving smoke nuisance or emissions of dark smoke were investigated during the year. The emission of dark smoke from industrial premises was noticed on one occasion and an appropriate warning was issued. The burning of waste on industrial premises or demolition sites was the subject of investigation and warnings in four cases. In the five other incidents reported, the alleged nuisances were not confirmed and no action was taken.

In addition to these recorded complaints, members of the public have continued to approach the Public Health Department concerning the problems associated with domestic bonfires and advice has been given with a view to preventing the nuisances that occur from this prevalent source.

Section 3 of the 1956 Act requires new industrial furnaces to be as smokeless as practicable, and local authorities must be notified of new installations. Four notifications of new furnaces were received during the year. In only one case was prior approval of the appliance sought and this was granted after due consideration.

The Acts give local authorities control over the height of furnace chimneys. During the year, approval to the proposed height of one chimney was granted.

S E C T I O N VI
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Water Supplies

In 1972 main water in the Chesham Urban District was supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's Undertaking supplied over 80% of the total dwellings within the District in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Distribution of Main Supplies

The following table shows the number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains:

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal piped supply	7,035	-	20,657
External supply (Stand- pipes)	6	3	25

Adequate public water supplies were available for all parts of the District in which new dwellings were erected during the year.

Fluoride Content of Water

The fluoride content of both water from the Chesham supply and that of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, is .04 p.p.m. or less.

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

During the year samples have been taken from the piped water supplied by the Chesham Urban District Council and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

192 samples, 184 for bacteriological examination and 8 for chemical analysis, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or the Public Analyst.

Of the 184 samples submitted for bacteriological examination, 25 were reported to be of an unsatisfactory standard and 17 as suspicious according to the recommended criteria. These contaminated samples were all taken from points served by mains on the Council's Undertaking. As a first step towards tracing and eliminating the source of contamination attention was given to the raw water supply derived from the bores. The tests carried out showed that the water at source was of the usual high bacteriological standard. The chlorination arrangements were, however, checked and the dosage of chlorine was increased. Samples were then taken from different points throughout the area of the town supplied from the Council's Undertaking. From this sampling it became apparent that the contamination was confined to two areas - Trapps Lane and Dellfield. New housing estates were under construction in these areas and mains to serve them had recently been laid. The contamination was believed to have been introduced during the construction of the new mains which had not been adequately cleansed and flushed out at the time. Arrangements were made with the Council's Surveyor for the mains affected to be flushed out and on subsequent sampling fewer unsatisfactory results were given. By the end of the year almost all sampling points were again giving satisfactory results.

The incident emphasises the need for the laying of water mains to be adequately supervised to ensure adherence to the rules of good practice and for a programme of vigilant sampling to be maintained.

Chemical Analysis

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of samples from the two suppliers of mains water:

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Sample Collected From</u>	<u>Water Undertaking</u>
M 179	32 Five Acres	Chesham U.D.C.
M 81	Plot 2, Woodley Hill	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company

	<u>Sample Ref. No.</u>	<u>M 179</u>	<u>M 81</u>
Appearance		All clear & colourless	
Reaction (pH)		7.2	7.0
Free chlorine	Parts per million:-	0.13	nil
Total solids	" " "	316	327
Loss on ignition	" " "	nil	48
Chlorine in chlorides	" " "	18	31
Ammoniacal nitrogen	" " "	0.020	0.015
Albuminoid nitrogen	" " "	0.023	nil
Nitrate nitrogen	" " "	2.85	2.8
Nitrite nitrogen	" " "	nil	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hours at 98°F)	" " "	0.08	0.20
Hardness, temporary	" " "	253	259
permanent	" " "	17	24
Total	" " "	270	283
Metals ~ lead, copper, zinc		not found	

(b) Private Well Supplies

Sixteen dwellings and two business premises in the District are dependent upon a supply of water from wells, these being mostly deep bore wells. They are known to yield an adequate supply all the year round, and the water is normally of high bacteriological quality. Sampling of the water is carried out from time to time and given below is a table showing the number of samples collected in 1972, together with the results of examinations carried out:

	SAMPLING OF WELL WATER SUPPLIES			
	No. of Samples	Result of Examination		
		Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological Examination	11	9	1	1
Chemical Analysis	2	2		

The two samples which were below standard were from one house in Pednor Road and advice on measures to remove the contamination was given to the owner.

At the end of the year arrangements were in hand to extend the Council's main in Missenden Road to serve three houses on well supplies.

2. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Council's Open Air Swimming Bath on The Moor operated throughout the summer months and the water heating has proved very beneficial particularly at the beginning and end of the season.

The roofing-in of the pool has not yet been carried out but is still under consideration by the Council.

The Bath is filled with water from a well on the site and the filtration and chlorination plant continues to ensure that the water is attractive and safe for bathing at all times. Nine samples of water from the bath were examined bacteriologically and all but two were found to be satisfactory. Checks on the chlorinating routine were made following these unsatisfactory results and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Paddling Pool - Lowndes Park

The pool continues to be popular with small children and is filled with water from the Town's mains supply, and further chlorinated and renewed at frequent intervals.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the Town is on a separate system, the foul sewers discharging to the Council's Sewage Treatment Works in Latimer Road.

The reconstructed Sewage Treatment Works is operating very satisfactorily and the final effluent discharged to the River Chess continues to be of high standard.

Parts of the District not served by Public Sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in out-lying parts of the Town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk.

In June 1971, the Department of the Environment finally gave approval to the scheme prepared by the Amersham Rural District Council for main sewerage in the Botley, Ley Hill and Lye Green areas. This scheme will enable a considerable number of dwellings within the District which are at present served by cesspools or septic tanks to be connected to main drainage. Work on this scheme started during 1972 and the new sewers should be ready for connections to be made from mid-1973 onward.

Cesspools

Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings. These must have a capacity of not less than 4,000 gallons, a capacity which is adequate for the average household for at least two months. A typical cesspool in the Chesham District consists of a circular pit 13 feet deep below the level of the inlet, 8 feet in diameter, constructed in 9" brickwork and cement rendered internally with a concrete base and cover.

Cesspool Emptying

Amersham Rural District Council have been emptying cesspools in Chesham on a rechargeable basis since 1st April 1972, and emptied 481 during the year.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household and some Trade Refuse is collected within the Urban District and disposed of by incineration at the Council's Refuse Destructor. Certain Trade Refuse which cannot be incinerated is taken to a privately-operated tip outside the District.

Storage of Household Refuse

The paper sack system of refuse storage continues to be provided on new Council Estates.

5. SLUM CLEARANCE THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

Individual Unfit Houses

During the year Closing Orders were made in respect of two unfit houses and action to secure the closure of one other unfit dwelling was commenced. Proceedings in respect of one further unfit house resulted in the acceptance of an undertaking from the owner that works would be carried out within a specified time to render the house fit.

Six houses in Inkerman Terrace, Waterside, which were the subject of Closing Orders were rendered fit following the execution of extensive works of repair and modernisation. Eight unfit cottages in King Street were also turned into three satisfactory dwellings in accordance with undertakings previously accepted from the owner.

Slums and Older Houses: An overall strategy

During the year the Department of the Environment requested local authorities to provide information about the condition of the housing stock within their areas and to provide an outline of the strategy to be followed by them in dealing with slums and older housing in the next five to ten years. Fortunately, the housing survey carried out in 1970 provided most of the information required in respect of the Chesham Urban District.

Allowing for changes since 1970, it was estimated that in the private sector out of a total of 5,250 dwellings only some 25 dwellings were wholly unfit and some 450 below the 12 point standard of fitness. (The 12 point standard of fitness is the qualifying standard for the making of 'discretionary' improvement grants).

Of the 450 dwellings below the 12 point standard it was considered that 325 were reasonably capable of being brought up to this standard.

Inspections of the 25 houses provisionally classified as unfit are being carried out with a view to action under the Housing Acts. The houses will be dealt with individually and it is thought that in many cases the action will result in the dwellings subsequently being improved. Re-housing of tenants will be required in most cases and as a good proportion are elderly couples or single persons, progress is likely to be governed by the rate at which suitable alternative accommodation can be found.

The Council will continue to encourage owners to improve the older houses lacking amenities by the provision of grants, but the steeply rising costs of building works, together with the acute shortage of suitable firms willing to undertake this kind of work makes it difficult to foresee any speeding up of progress.

Compulsory Improvement of Houses

Powers for the compulsory improvement of dwellings within an improvement area which were given to Local Authorities under the Housing Act, 1964 have been repealed and replaced by new provisions in the Housing Act, 1969. Financial aid may now be given towards the improvement of the environment in general improvement areas but Local Authorities must rely on compulsory purchase powers where owners fail to improve property voluntarily in an improvement area.

The powers available to the Local Authority to compel a landlord to install standard amenities on the application of the tenant in the case of a single dwelling have been retained. This power is rarely used and during 1972 no applications from tenants were received.

Households with Amenities

During the year reports on the 1971 Census were published and the information given regarding the provision of certain essential amenities in Chesham households is of interest. Of the 6,800 households, approximately 10% were without exclusive use of at least one of the three amenities; a hot water supply, a fixed bath (or shower) and an inside flush toilet.

6.4% (435) had no fixed bath or shower. 5.4% (365) were without a hot water supply. Approximately 6% of households were served by an outside flush toilet only.

These figures are not directly comparable with those derived from surveys carried out by the Council's Inspectors as they relate to households not separate dwellings but the general picture they give is very much the same.

6. GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

The Council has continued to make Discretionary and Standard Grants for the improvement of old houses and the Public Health Department is responsible for the considerable amount of administrative work attached to the operation of these schemes. The Public Health Inspectors made 225 visits during the year to advise applicants on proposals or to inspect works in progress or completed.

New Legislation

A thorough and self-contained code for grant-aided improvement and conversion of houses came into operation on the

25th August, 1969 under the Housing Act, 1969. The new code provides flexibility to deal with a wide range of house conditions, and a minimum of statutory requirements; as much as possible is left to the local authority's judgment. The upper limit for Discretionary Improvement Grants has been increased to £1,000 (£1,200 for conversions) and to £200 for Standard Grants (£450 in the case of higher limit Standard Grants). A new type of grant has been introduced to enable grant-aid to be made towards the provision of amenities in houses in multi-occupation. Improvement grant is now available to cover repairs and replacements needed for the purpose of making fully effective other improvements carried out at the same time.

Scope of Grant-Aided Work

The greater discretion allowed in recent years has enabled local authorities to make grants available for a much wider range of improvements than was possible when Government restrictions applied. The Council has ruled, for example, that the expenses of connecting dwellings to a public sewer in place of septic tank or cesspool drainage may qualify for grant-aid even where this is the only work being carried out. Information about this provision for grant-aid has been sent to owners of all dwellings in the Botley and Lye Green areas where a new main drainage scheme is in progress.

Grant-Aided Improvements in 1972

In the year under review, a total of 42 applications for both types of grant were received as against 46 in the previous year. Details are given in the tables following:

STANDARD GRANTS

	Owner/Occupier		Other		All Appli- cations
	Standard		Standard		
	5 point	3 point	5 point	3 point	Total
Applications Received	5	—	—	—	5
Applications Approved	4	—	1	—	5
Applications Pending	—	—	3	—	3
Applications Refused	—	—	—	—	—
Applications Withdrawn	—	—	—	—	—
Dwellings Improved	6	—	3	—	9

Amount paid in grants	£2,373.70
Average grant per house	£263.75
Number of amenities provided -	fixed bath or shower 4
	wash-hand basin 7
	hot water supply
	@ 3 points 7
	@ 2 points 2
	inside water closet 6

In the years 1959 to 1972 inclusive, a total of 144 applications for Standard Grants have been received, of which 131 have been approved. 124 of the schemes have been completed.

DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	Owner/Occupiers	Other	Total
Applications Received	28	9	37
Applications Approved	26	8	34
Applications Refused	-	-	-
Applications Withdrawn	1	-	1
Dwellings Improved or formed by conversion	14	7	21

Amount paid in grants	£13,244.50.
Average grant per house	£630.70

Since 1954, 339 applications for Discretionary improvement grants have been received and of these 320 have been approved. 259 of the schemes have been completed.

7. IMPROVEMENT OF PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSES

In addition to making grants to the owners of private dwellings, the Council are also proceeding with schemes of improvement and modernisation of their own property. As far back as 1958, they approved schemes for 471 dwellings out of 529 properties built before 1946. The work is made more difficult due to the wide variety of house types; 46 different layouts for pre-war properties alone.

The proposed schemes of improvement provide all the houses with amenities of a standard equivalent to that of post-war properties. Hot water supply is provided by means of a back boiler, independent boiler or immersion heater, according to type, whilst in certain instances, additional improvement is effected by the re-arrangement of sculleries, larders and coal stores.

In several of the older types, a considerably improved layout is obtained by demolishing the ground floor bathrooms and W.C. and constructing a new bathroom and W.C. on the first floor by partitioning off a section of a large bedroom. A modern electrical installation, incorporating ring mains with adequate socket outlets, is also provided.

The Housing Act, 1969, has extended the definition of "improvement" to include "alteration and enlargement and such other repairs and replacements as are either incidental to some other improvement or needed for the purpose of making the other improvement fully effective". This broader definition has enabled the Council to obtain financial assistance on a number of items not previously eligible.

Towards the end of 1972, it became apparent that unless steps were taken to accelerate the rate of improvement of pre-war properties, there was little possibility of completing the work before the end of the Chesham Urban District's existence in March, 1974. The Council therefore decided to consider inviting tenders for the remaining properties to be dealt with in large groups. They also decided to appoint external architects to assist in this work. Jack Moore Associates were appointed and tenders are to be invited for dealing with 178 dwellings. The schemes have been divided into three stages - Stage I consisting of 55 properties, Stage II 54 properties, and Stage III 69 properties.

It is hoped that Stage I will be completed during 1973 with the next stages to follow immediately. This will complete the modernisation of all pre-war properties. However, standards are rising so rapidly that it appears probable that the up-grading of property will continue indefinitely.

This may be illustrated by the fact that following the completion of work of modernisation of Townfield, a group of pre-war elderly persons flats, schemes of improvement, principally the introduction of central heating, are being prepared for elderly persons bungalows in Fullers Close, Missenden Road and Deansway. All of these are post-war developments.

8. HOUSING REPAIRS

The Housing Act, 1969 as well as encouraging the repair of houses by making grant-aid available for certain works carried out with improvements has introduced a new power to require the repair of houses which are not yet unfit. Up to now the powers in the Housing Act, 1957 have dealt with only the works required to make unfit houses fit for human habitation. The new power may be used

where substantial repairs are needed to bring the house up to a reasonable standard having regard to its age, character and locality.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out during the year. Where action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was taken to secure repairs, it was in most cases the result of complaints made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned. The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action was 4 Statutory action secured the repair of 5 dwellings.

Schedules of defects were also sent to the landlords of a number of houses which were subject to applications for qualification certificates under the procedure described below and resulted in substantial repair works being carried out.

Rent of Dwellings in good repair and provided with standard amenities: Controlled and Regulated Tenancies

In August, 1972, the procedure for converting into regulated tenancies, by the issue of qualification certificates, those controlled tenancies which reach the qualifying standard of amenity and repair, was modified by the Housing Finance Act, 1972. This Act also provided for a staged programme for converting the remaining controlled tenancies other than those of dwellings formally classified as unfit.

The chief responsibility of local authorities in relation to these rent provisions is to deal with applications for qualification certificates relating to the state of the dwelling when it is let on a controlled tenancy. There are two types of case: the first is where the dwelling is to be provided with some or all of the standard amenities; the second is where the dwelling already has all the standard amenities. A booklet explaining the provisions is available in the Department and has been distributed to landlords and tenants concerned.

The administration of this part of the Act is carried out by the Council's Public Health Inspectors and involves considerable work, including negotiations with landlords and tenants, the inspection of properties and liaison with the Rent Officer.

Applications for Qualification Certificates dealt with during 1972

A. Standard Amenities already provided

Applications pending at beginning of year	7
Applications received during year	4
Total	11

Applications approved and Certificates issued	3
Applications refused	1
Applications withdrawn	1
Applications pending at end of year	6
	<hr/>
Total	11
	<hr/>

B. Improvement Cases

Applications pending at beginning of year	4
Applications received during year	5
	<hr/>
	9
	<hr/>
Qualification Certificates issued	1
Applications refused	—
Applications withdrawn	—
Applications provisionally approved or pending at end of year	8
	<hr/>
Total	9
	<hr/>

Since the introduction of the procedure in 1969, twenty-six qualification certificates have been issued.

Tenure of Households' Accommodation

The 1971 Census provided information on tenure and the following facts relating to Chesham have been extracted. Of 6,795 households in permanent buildings, 60.5% were owner/occupier and 26.1% rented from the Council. 11.3% households rented unfurnished accommodation from a private landlord and 2.0% furnished accommodation from a private landlord.

9. HOUSES IN MULTI-OCCUPATION

The Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964, strengthened by new provisions in the Housing Act, 1969, have given local authorities extensive powers to control houses which are in multiple-occupation. Suitable and sufficient services and amenities may be required together with provision for means of escape in case of fire. The number of occupants may be limited according to the accommodation or facilities available. Where management standards are bad a code of management may be applied and in extreme cases local authorities may take over the property under control orders.

During the year detailed inspections of several houses in multi-occupation were carried out and action taken under the Act to enforce proper standards. All the houses inspected were occupied by immigrant households, one or more of which were applicants for rehousing by the Council.

Four Notices were served requiring the execution of works to bring the facilities and services up to standard, and 5 Notices requiring suitable means of escape in case of fire. Directions were also applied limiting the number of persons and households who may live in the houses. It was arranged that the Directions would be applied before any rehousing of families took place. This meant that when rehousing did take place it would be an offence for the landlord to permit other persons to take up residence in excess of the limit applied by the Direction. Altogether 5 Directions were applied.

One landlord failed to furnish information requested about the number of persons occupying his house and was duly prosecuted. He was fined £10. with costs of £10.

Despite considerable delays and difficulties the works required by the Notices were eventually carried out except in one case where Legal Proceedings to secure enforcement were being considered at the end of the year.

Rent Books

Inspections of multi-occupied houses and contact with applicants for rehousing brought to notice evidence that landlords were not providing tenants with Rent Books as required by the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1962. Failure to provide Rent Books was common throughout this type of letting and the omission appeared to be a deliberate act rather than due to ignorance of the law. A letter was sent to Pakistani landlords in the town pointing out their obligations to provide Rent Books and warning them that the Council would prosecute for any offences brought to their notice in the future. An explanatory leaflet "Landlords and the Law" in English and Urdu was sent with the letter.

It was also arranged for a supply of the proper Rent Books to be held in the Public Health Department for sale to landlords.

10. COUNCIL HOUSING IN CHESHAM

During 1972 the Council rehoused 201 families including 115 exchanges. Since 1946 Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 3,207 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

Year	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	O.A.P. Bungalows & Flatlets	Council Totals	Houses Erected By	
						Private Enterprise	Housing Assocs.
1946/ 1950	35	186	36	-	257	85	-
1951/ 1955	-	233	86	40	359	229	10
1956/ 1960	-	126	129	-	255	1,109	22
1961/ 1965	-	82	32	37	151	842	-
1966/ 1970	-	159	59	-	218	413	-
1971	-	-	1	-	1	26	-
1972	-	55	15	-	70	24	-
Total	35	841	358	77	1311	2,728	32

37 Council dwellings were under construction at the end of the year. Dwellings under private construction at the end of the year numbered 52.

Housing Needs

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation which is restricted to persons who reside or work in the Town, numbered 572 in December, 1972. This number compares with 458 in the previous year. The 1972 figure includes 99 applications from elderly persons or couples.

11. CARAVAN SITES

Only two licences under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, were in operation during the year. These sites were occupied by single caravans only and the Licence conditions, although based on the model standards, were suitably modified to take account of the temporary nature of the sites.

The use of three unlicensed sites was investigated during the year. Informal action secured the removal of the caravans from two of the sites. In the third case the occupier was advised to apply for the necessary planning permission and licence.

12. RODENT CONTROL
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Under this Act it is the duty of the local authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice.

The Council's duties are carried out by one full-time Rodent Officer working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors. His time is divided between surveys and treatments of all types of premises, including farms. Surveys are carried out as a result of notification by occupiers or in the course of the general inspection of the District. The table following shows that 138 premises were inspected as a result of notifications, and that 915 properties were inspected in the course of routine surveys.

The majority of infestations discovered are treated by the Rodent Officer, only a few occupiers preferring to carry out their own treatments. Treatments at all types of premises are free of charge, encouraging the co-operation of occupiers to report infestations.

No notices under the Act were served during the year.

Test baiting of the Council's sewers was carried out, some 50 manholes being baited. Only 6 manholes showed evidence of infestation and these were subsequently poison baited.

A summary of action taken during the year is given below:

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
Number of properties in district (1.4.72)	8,401	39
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	136	2
Number infested by		
(i) Rats	61	-
(ii) Mice	19	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification (Summary cont'd on next page)	890	25

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
Number infested by (i) Rats (ii) Mice	22 3	- -
Total number of properties where treatment for rats and/or mice has been completed	90	-

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1961

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that rag flock and other filling materials used in the manufacture of furniture, bedding, soft toys, etc., are of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. Where such articles are manufactured, the Act provides for registration of the premises. No premises in Chesham are at present registered under the Act.

14. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

Occupiers of 23 premises at which the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on are registered under Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957.

Byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. These byelaws make provision for securing the cleanliness of premises, of equipment used and of persons working on the premises.

15. WELFARE OF ANIMALS

In recent years three Acts of Parliament have given local authorities duties in relation to the health and welfare of animals. These Acts are the Pet Animals Act, 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, and the Riding Establishments Act, 1964. The two former are administered by the District Council and the latter by the Bucks. County Council.

Since March, 1966, Mr. David D. Unwin, B.Vet.Med., M.R.C.V.S., has carried out the inspection of premises and animals under the Acts enforced by the Council. Administrative provisions are dealt with by the Public Health Department.

(a) Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act regulates the conditions in which pet animals are kept pending sale. It provides for the licensing of premises from

which pet animals are sold and empowers a Local Authority to make conditions regarding the housing and care of the pets.

There is one licenced pet shop and one wholesaler of goldfish and tortoises in the Town. The conditions attached to the licences have been complied with.

(b) Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on.

One licence has been in operation during the year in respect of premises accommodating 40 dogs and 30 cats. Satisfactory conditions have been maintained.

16. THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The Council are responsible for enforcing certain provisions of the Factories Act relating to health, and annexed to this report are tables giving particulars of the visits made to factories by Public Health Inspectors and the cases in which defects were found.

Plans of new factories are examined in the Public Health Department and appropriate comments are passed to the architects concerned with a view to ensuring that sanitary conveniences and other provisions as to health meet with the statutory requirements.

The principal industries in which local factories are engaged are indicated by the list following:

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Descaling fluid	1
Car accessories	1

Factories (With Power)

Light engineering	19
Woodware, joinery and sawmills	14
Motor vehicle repairs	15
Printers	10
Brushware	3
Food manufacture and packing	3
Aircraft seats	4
Foundries	2
Injection moulding	4
Boot manufacturers	3

Instrument manufacturers	4
Shoe repairs	1
Furniture	5
Scrap sorting and packing	1
Radio and T.V. repairs	2
Gas and electricity suppliers	1
Tailors	1
Jewellers	1
Other industries	34
	<hr/>
	127
	<hr/>

Outworkers

Under Section 133 of the Factories Act, 1961, the occupier of every factory employing outworkers in certain specified classes of work must send to the District Council during the months of February and August of each year a list showing all the outworkers employed by him during the previous six months. A table showing the persons employed as outworkers in the specified trades in Chesham is annexed to the report.

17. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The Act, which came into force during 1964, makes provision for securing the safety, health and welfare of persons employed to work in offices, shops and certain railway premises. The Council are responsible for enforcing the general provisions of the Act in most of the office and shop premises in the Chesham Urban District. H.M. Inspectors of Factories enforce the general provisions of the Act in railway premises, in fuel storage depots on railway land and in factory offices. In addition, they are responsible for premises owned or occupied by the Crown and those occupied by local authorities. The fire provisions of the Act are, at most premises in the District, enforced by the Buckinghamshire County Council.

Administration of the Act

The Council's Public Health Inspectors are responsible for administration of the Authority's functions under the Act.

Registration of Premises

Section 49 of the Act requires occupiers of premises within scope to register them with the appropriate authority. Twenty-seven premises were newly registered with the Council

during the year. The total number on the register at the end of the year was 213, an increase of two on the corresponding figure for 1971.

Except for the multiple concerns few new employers appear to be aware of their responsibility to register under the Act. Whenever possible steps are, therefore, taken to locate and identify new businesses or changes of occupiers as a matter of priority. Forms of registration are provided and guidance offered on the operation of the Act.

Inspection of Premises during 1972

During 1972, 53 premises received a general inspection and the total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises (including general inspections) was 117.

Operation and General Provisions of the Act

During 1972, a total of 32 written notices notifying 96 contraventions were sent out to the persons responsible. The most frequently occurring defects related to the safety of floors, passages and stairs, the provision of first aid materials, and the failure to supply employees with information about the Act.

An analysis of the total contraventions recorded during the year is given below:

Analysis of Contraventions of the Act

<u>Section of Act</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of Contraventions found and notified to owners or occupiers</u>
4	Cleanliness of rooms and furnishings	1
6	Temperature of workrooms	5
8	Lighting of premises	6
9	Provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences	8
10	Provision and maintenance of washing facilities	6
16	Safety of floors, passages, and stairs	12
17	Fencing of exposed parts of machinery	2
24	First Aid materials	16
49	Failure to register under the Act	16
50	Information for Employees	16
	Other matters	8
	Total	96

Since 1964 when the Act came into operation, 324 informal notices have been served. At the end of 1972, 12 notices had not been complied with. All these outstanding notices are of recent service.

Whilst inspections have revealed fairly widespread infringements of the Act, there have been no instances where standards maintained have been exceptionally bad. On the other hand there are a few premises where exceptionally high standards are found. Of these one must mention the two largest supermarkets in the town where working conditions and welfare facilities such as canteens and rest rooms are particularly good. It is significant that in these establishments managerial control is of a high order backed by a sound organisation at the respective head offices of the multiple firms concerned.

Accidents

Section 48 of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 requires occupiers of premises which are subject to the Act to report any accident which causes the death of an employee, or disables an employee from doing his normal work for more than three days. Reports of accidents must be submitted to the Authority on a prescribed form.

There were six accidents notified during the period covered by this report. Three were the result of falls, one occurred whilst handling goods, and two persons suffered injury cutting meat.

Prosecutions

No legal proceedings for offences under the Act were instituted by the Council during the year.

Prescribed Particulars

The appendix to the report contains the following tables, giving the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Act.

TABLE A	-	Registrations and General Inspections
TABLE B	-	Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises.
TABLE C	-	Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace.
TABLE D	-	Exemptions
TABLE E	-	Prosecutions
TABLE F	-	Staff

S E C T I O N VII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Since 1949, the duties of local authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to the infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of local authorities.

One shopkeeper, intending to sell either 'pasteurised' or 'ultra-heat treated' milk in bottles or cartons, was newly registered as a milk distributor during the year. A total of 11 milk distributors and one dairy are registered in the Urban District. One producer/retailer operates from premises in the District.

Milk supplies are sampled regularly by Officers of the Bucks. County Council and tested for both compositional and bacteriological quality.

Tests to check the cleansing of milk bottles at the local dairy are arranged by the Public Health Inspectors.

During the year 4 batches of 6 washed milk bottles were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. The results were satisfactory.

Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

No action to deal with infected supplies of milk was necessary during the year.

2. ICE-CREAM

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959 & 1963

The Regulations control the treatment of ice-cream during manufacture and until sale. No ice-cream is manufactured in the District and the ice-cream sold from the shops is of the pre-packed variety supplied by large firms distributing on a national scale. The vehicles from which ice-cream is sold are also operated by firms whose premises are situated outside the District.

No samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during 1972.

3. FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

These Regulations came into operation on the 1st March, 1971. They consolidated previous regulations and introduced some minor improvements.

(a) Food Businesses

The table following shows the categories of trade carried on in the food premises in the District subject to these Regulations.

Principal Business	No.
Grocery	30
Greengrocery	8
Butchers	12
Wet Fish	1
Fish Frying	5
Bakers	3
Sweet Shops	13
Catering	8
Canteens	8
School Meals	11
Manufacturing	2
Licensed Premises	22
Clubs, Halls	8
Warehouses	2
Poultry Dressing	2
Total	135

(b) Inspection of Food Premises

The inspection of premises where food is stored, manufactured or sold continues to be an important duty of the Public Health Inspectors. Visits are made to all such premises and those with a record of poor hygiene are given frequent inspections.

301 visits were made to premises subject to the Regulations. On 39 occasions written notices detailing 173 infringements found were sent to the persons responsible. The matters concerned are summarised below.

Regulation	Subject of Infringement	No. of Cases
7	Dirty equipment	30
9	Food exposed to contamination	17
16	Defective or dirty sanitary conveniences	16
18	Defective or deficient washing facilities	26
21	Defective or deficient washing facilities for food and equipment	4
23	Inadequate ventilation in food rooms	2
25	Food rooms dirty or in disrepair	69
-	Miscellaneous	9
	Total	173

After several requests to the owner of a Fish and Chip Shop to improve conditions at his premises had not met with a satisfactory response, legal proceedings were taken against him for contraventions of the Regulations. A total fine of £80. was imposed by the Court for eight separate offences. He was found not guilty on two other charges.

Experience has shown that standards soon drop off when visits by the Public Health Inspectors are unavoidably curtailed, as they have been in several recent years during periods of staff shortages. This was again evident in 1972 when attempts were made to catch up on the backlog of visiting brought about by the shortage of an Inspector in the previous year. There is still a need for premises and practices to be improved in some establishments and certainly no room for complacency in this field of public health inspection. Any programme of routine work in the Public Health Department must allow for a high proportion of Inspectors' time to be spent on visiting food premises of all kinds and giving guidance to food traders and their staff.

(c) The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and delivery vehicles. Although the Regulations have been in operation for 6 years many persons affected still appear ignorant of their requirements. Whenever possible the opportunity is taken to distribute explanatory leaflets on the Regulations and to otherwise give guidance to those concerned.

Visits are made to food stalls set up at travelling fairs to ensure that they comply with the Regulations. In addition, mobile shops and ice-cream vendors are inspected whenever possible.

(d) Poultry Inspection

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, apply to premises at which poultry are processed for sale and local authorities are responsible for seeing that the Act and Regulations are complied with. There are no large poultry processing premises within the District, but processing on a small scale is carried on at two premises.

No inspection of poultry at the premises has been carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

4. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Purpose for which Registered	Premises on Register 1971	Added to Register 1972	Removed from Register 1972	Total on Register 31.12.72
Sale and storage of ice-cream	54	1	-	55
Manufacture of ice-cream	* 2	-	-	2 *
Manufacture of preserved food	24	1	-	25
Fish Frying	5	-	-	5
TOTALS	85	2	-	87

* No ice-cream was manufactured at these premises in 1972.

5. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Since September, 1959, no slaughtering has taken place in Chesham.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen:

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1971	- 2
Applications for Licences considered during 1972	- 0
Applications for Renewals considered during 1972	- 2
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1972	- 2

6. INSPECTION OF FOOD

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, gives local authorities wide powers to deal with offences in relation to the sale of food. Section 2 of the Act deals with food not of the nature, or substance, or quality demanded. Where there is a danger to health, or where it appears that the offence is local in character, e.g. the sale of mouldy food by a shopkeeper, as the result of poor stock control, the matter is dealt with by this Authority. In certain instances complaints falling under this Section are passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks. County Council which is the Food and Drugs Authority for this district. The sale or exposure for sale of food unfit for human consumption is covered by Section 8 of the Act, and all cases are handled by this Council's Public Health Department.

Complaints

31 complaints relating to food were received during the year. 4 of these were passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks. County Council. The remaining 27 cases were investigated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors and all but three were found to be justified.

The complaints covered a wide range - from chocolates infested with moths to glass in fresh mince. Only 4 complaints related to mould in food, a surprisingly low figure and perhaps a welcome indication that at long last retailers are paying more attention to the storage and handling of susceptible foods, such as meat pies and confectionery which have so often featured in past incidents. 10 of the complaints were about foods in which a variety of foreign bodies had been found and the remainder concerned foods which were unsound or of poor quality.

Fresh Milk Concentrate

Lengthy enquiries were made following one complaint from a resident who had purchased a carton of fresh milk concentrate from a local supermarket and found it to be curdled, sour and smelling offensively when opened one hour later.

Investigations into this incident were of particular interest as the milk concentrate was a new product which had only recently been put on the market.

Reports in one of the municipal journals at the time suggested that there had been complaints elsewhere of the milk souring before sale.

From correspondence with the manufacturers it was evident that there had been some technical problems in production. Whilst the milk no doubt stood up to the recommended shelf life of five days under laboratory conditions, the incident placed some doubt on the keeping quality of the milk under varying retail conditions.

The supermarket company arranged with the producer to carry out bacteriological tests on the product at production and depot levels in an effort to establish the cause of the problems of keeping quality. Pending the outcome of these investigations they arranged to withdraw the product from sale. Shortly afterwards, however, it was learnt that the producers had ceased production of the commodity.

Legal Proceedings

Legal proceedings were instituted on two occasions during the year; in one case a company operating a supermarket in the town was fined £50. for selling unsound pig hocks and in the other a local bakery was fined a similar sum for selling a dirty Chelsea Bun.

In all other cases appropriate warnings and advice was given with a view to preventing similar incidents recurring.

Unsound Food Condemned

A considerable amount of unsound food was voluntarily surrendered to the Department by traders during the year, details of which are set out below. A large proportion of this was frozen foods condemned after defrosting due to cabinet breakdowns.

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Meat at retail shops	-	4	88
Carcase meat at wholesale premises	-	-	11
Cooked meat and meat products	-	-	7
Canned Meat	-	-	10
Fish	-	-	-
Canned Foods	-	4	39
Other foods including frozen foods	6	4	95
Total	6	14	26

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs are normally destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

B.H. BURNE
Medical Officer of Health

L.D. SATURLEY
Chief Public Health Inspector

APPENDIX to Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1972
for the Urban District of Chesham in the County of Buckingham

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)	2	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power)	128	23	9	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) (e.g. Building Sites)	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	130	25	9	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	4	3	-	3
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	20	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	25	24	-	3

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133		Section 134		Notices served	Prosecutions
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises		
Wearing) Making Apparel,) etc. Cleaning and Washing Brush making	12	1	-	-	-	-
	24	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	36	1	-	-	-	-

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Prescribed particulars to be included in the annual report to the Department of Employment and Productivity by local authorities and the Greater London Council under Section 60

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	(1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year	(2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year	(3)	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year	(4)
Offices		8		75		12	
Retail shops		17		124		36	
Wholesale shops, warehouses		-		3		-	
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens		2		11		5	
Fuel storage depots		-		-		-	
TOTALS		27		213		53	

TABLE B - NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

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TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	(1)	Number of persons employed	(2)
Offices		556	
Retail shops		954	
Wholesale departments, warehouses		90	
Catering establishments open to the public		59	
Canteens		11	
Fuel storage depots		-	
	TOTAL	1670	
	TOTAL MALES	641	
	TOTAL FEMALES	1029	

TABLE D - EXEMPTIONS

Part I - Space (Section 5(2)) Part III - Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)
 Part II - Temperature (Section 6) Part IV - Washing Facilities (Section 10)

Class of Premises	No. of exemptions current at end of year (2)	During the year					Appeals to Courts against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption	
		No. of exemptions		No. of applications				
		newly granted (3)	ex- tended (4)	ex- pired or with- drawn (5)	refused (6)	opposed by employees (7)	No. made (8)	No. allowed (9)
(1) Offices Retail Shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering estab- lishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	

TABLE E - PROSECUTIONS

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in 1972 - NIL
 Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under Section 22 - NIL
 Number of interim orders granted - NIL

TABLE F - STAFF

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act - 3
 Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act - NIL

